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APPLICANT: R. STEVENS TULL

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FOR: CUSTOMIZABLE BOAT T-TOP AND METHOD OF INSTALLATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: TOW-008

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent Office as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231, on 3/15/02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of this application please enter the following amendment:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel pending claims 1 and 2 and add the following new claims:

- 3) A boat covering structure comprising:
  - a) customizable frame for mounting to a deck of the boat wherein the customizable frame comprises two vertical support frames comprising a top end and a bottom end and a reinforcing grid rigidly mounted to the top end of the vertical support frames;
  - b) a lid adapted to be rigidly mounted to the reinforcing grid; and
  - c) means for rigidly connecting the bottom of the vertical support frames to the deck of the boat.
- 4) The boat covering structure of claim 3 further comprising a storage compartment adapted to be rigidly mounted to the reinforcing grid.

- 5) The boat covering structure of claim 3 wherein the vertical support frames comprise a plurality of generally vertical pipes and a plurality of horizontal connecting pipes wherein the plurality of horizontal connecting pipes are rigidly connected to the plurality of generally vertical pipes.
- 6) A method for installing a boat covering structure on a deck of a boat comprising the steps of:
- a) determining a plurality of mounting points on the deck of the boat;
  - b) providing a plurality of vertical support frames with a plurality of bottom ends corresponding to the plurality of mounting point;
  - c) determining the height of the boat covering structure relative to the boat deck;
  - d) adjusting the vertical support frames to correspond to the determined height;
  - e) rigidly connecting a reinforcing grid to the top end of the plurality of vertical support frames;
  - f) rigidly connecting a lid to the reinforcing grid to form a solid structure; and
  - g) rigidly mounting the solid structure at the plurality mounts on the deck of the boat.

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Respectfully Submitted,  
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Reg. No. 35, 462